

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Chambers, on the Withem amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I do feel very strongly about this, and I feel very strongly about the way this is being done, and I think it is totally inappropriate. I think the judges, I think the Bar Association, I think the lobbyists has told the Legislature, go to Hell. We are going to find a way to get that raise for the judges, and the Legislature, as a whole, is going to have nothing to say about it. They are not accountable to anybody. There is no time when their work is reviewed and this is a situation where we have different categories of judges and they all get a raise automatically when you raise the salary for the Supreme Court judges. When they used to have individual bills for the different category of judges, there'd be the opportunity to see how they are doing with their workload, how other things are being done, on which we have to legislate. There is an argument going on now about allocation of judicial resources. The Appropriations Committee can't deal with that. They don't know anything about what the judges are doing, so they are going to say it is just a salary question. Everybody else gets a salary, so do the judges, pay them. I don't agree with that at all. They are not reviewed, the judiciary is nor reviewed by anybody, not by anybody, and I think that the Appropriations Committee can easily be aced around. Senator Wehrbein said he thinks this should be routinely done by the Appropriations Committee in terms of giving a salary. I think the contrary. It is not a routine matter. The judges have powers. They have prerogatives that no other branch of government has. There are times when they have gotten messages to other senators so that votes would occur a certain way in the Legislature. They've got their lobbyists, the Bar Association is scrambling around scurrying, sniffing, trying to put pressure on people, and then on the floor we are going to pretend that somehow the judiciary is a pristine pure body sitting on Mount Olympus and none of these people have venal ideas, none of them are self-seekers, none of them are trying to get more money. They are just out there in the abstract doing good for everybody to bring justice and make a better world, and such being the case, give them a raise without any questions being asked. To me, even though they wear those gowns, I presume the males wear britches under them and they put their britches on the same way we do. I presume there are ladies who wear gowns, and if they wear britches, they put them on the same way, and if they wear dresses, they put their